

CLAIMS:

1. A method for identifying and diagnosing prokaryotic infectious agents, said method comprising the steps of
 - 5 obtaining a sample from a source wherein said sample contains prokaryotic infectious agents,
inoculating a cell growth substrate comprising submucosal tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate with the sample wherein the submucosal tissue is delaminated from muscle layers and the luminal portion of tunica mucosa,
 - 10 culturing the sample on said substrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said prokaryotic infectious agents.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the sample is taken from a vertebrate species.
3. A method for analyzing, *in vitro*, the growth characteristics of
 - 15 prokaryotic infectious agents, said method comprising the steps of
inoculating a cell growth substrate comprising submucosal tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate with the prokaryotic infectious agent wherein the submucosal tissue is delaminated from muscle layers and the luminal portion of tunica mucosa,
 - 20 culturing the prokaryotic infectious agent on said substrate under a selected variable cell growth condition, and;
histologically examining the prokaryotic infectious agent inoculated on said substrate.